

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Iowa City Telecommunications Commission (ICTC) is a city commission comprised of five Iowa City residents and is mandated to facilitate and to regulate the smooth and effective development and operation of the City's Broadband Telecommunications Network (BTN) , the City's cable television system, as well as advise on telecommunications related matters. The Commission makes its recommendations to City Council in matters pertaining to the BTN, resolves disputes about the operation of the BTN, conducts periodic evaluations of the BTN operations, and in general facilitates BTN use by citizens of Iowa City, which includes the promotion and facilitation of the access channels and community programming.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2008

- Oversaw and reviewed efforts by the FCC to modify franchising rules for telephone companies and cable companies. Worked with relevant national organizations on legal challenges to FCC rule-making.
- Reviewed written comments by City staff and participated in oral comments in Iowa Utility Board rulemaking implementing new state franchising legislation.
- Continued to monitor legal developments affecting Iowa City's cable TV franchise including Iowa lawsuits claiming cable TV franchise fees are an illegal tax.
- Monitored and promoted public understanding of the issues related to the agreement between Big Ten Network and Mediacom.
- Began process of the Triennial Review of the franchise agreement with Mediacom.
- Oversaw basic cable rate and equipment regulation, resulting in one of the lowest basic tier rates in Iowa.
- Worked with local access channels to continue to improve the quality and number of local programs.
- Reviewed subscriber cable TV complaints reported by Cable TV Administrator.
- Reviewed Cable TV related funds, including the cable TV pass through and PATV funds.
- Oversaw the City cable TV budgeting process.
- Oversaw the distribution of pass through funds to the Community Television Group .
- Received monthly program and progress reports from the Cable TV Administrator, City Channel 4, InfoVision Channel 5, Library Channel 10, Kirkwood's Channel 11, PATV Access Channel 18, Educational Channel 21, Senior Citizen Television (SCTV) and the University of Iowa Channel 17.